

SENATOR HALL: Nature's chain.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...then you reach the human beings.

SENATOR HALL: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay. Now are any of those animals more worthy of protection than others when what we are talking about protecting them from is deliberate infliction of pain or death, not in order to provide food or sustenance but as sport and amusement?

SENATOR HALL: Not in my opinion.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Nor in mine. I don't even think a rat should be treated cruelly.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Rats are very intelligent animals, but because we ascribe certain characteristics and traits to them that they have picked up as a result of being around human beings, rats are what they are because human beings are what they are, we say that they can be dealt with in any fashion. So in our minds we compartmentalize and make certain animals worthy of protection and others not. Senator Wesely, the next time I have time, I want to get in a brief discussion with you about falconry and why we are going to allow that kind of cruelty to animals but we don't want this kind. Falconry is white collar cruelty, just like bear baiting and other types of baiting were the sport of the queen, the kings and others of the gentry. But certain types of more mundane cruelty to animals, that the blue collar and no collar engaged in, were ruled to be illegal. So, since I don't have enough time to really go into that now, I will turn my light back on. But you've been forewarned.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Wesely has some guests in the north balcony, and I'd like to introduce them at this time. We have seven members of the Nebraska Health Care Association, and their sponsor. Would you folks, please, stand and be recognized. Thank you for visiting us today. Senator Wesely, please.

SENATOR WESELY: We are on the committee amendments, aren't we?